



SHAPING FUTURES. BUILDING LEGACIES

ST KABIR
PUBLIC SCHOOL

SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH, 160019



ray kabira

ANNUAL
THEATRE
PRODUCTION

Based on
Shakespeare's
The Merchant of Venice

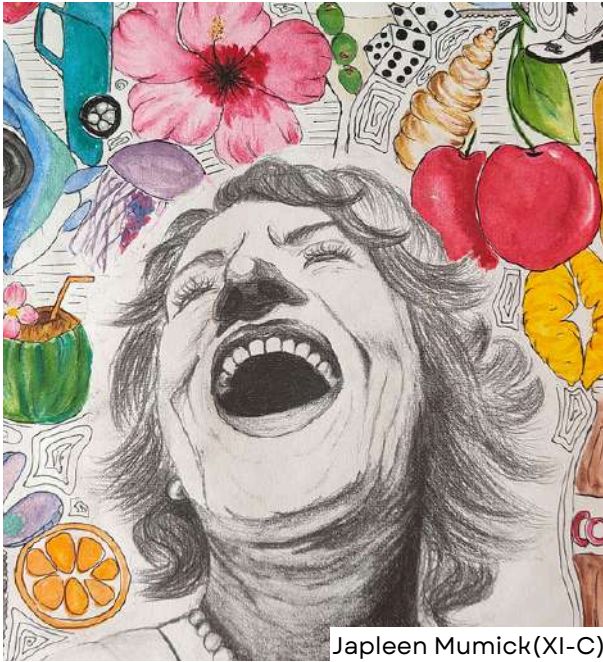
KAGAZ KE KAFILE



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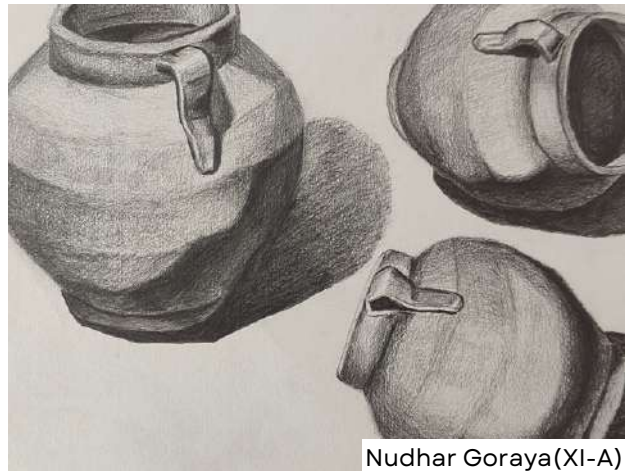
'STROKES OF GENIUS, BLENDED WITH PASSION AND PATIENCE'



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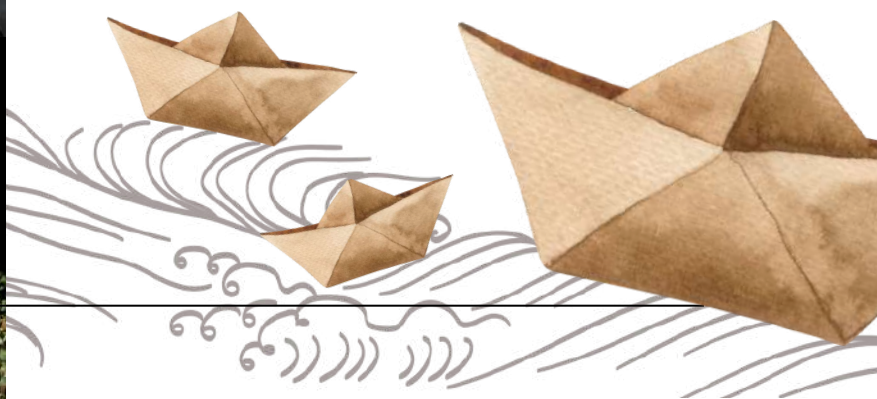
Amitoj Singh(VI-B)



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Principal's Musings

As an English teacher with two decades of experience, I've often grappled with the complexities of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. While I've studied and taught the play numerous times, I've always struggled to empathise with Shylock, the enigmatic Jewish moneylender. However, my recent experience with our school's production of *Kaagaz ke Kafil* completely transformed my perspective. The play presented a completely alternative viewpoint, compelling me to think critically about the character and the broader themes of the play. Respect for others' perspectives and empathy emerged as crucial tenets of critical thinking. I experienced both profoundly while watching the performance.

Our exceptionally talented students delivered their case with such ease and finesse, captivating me with their abilities. The script subtly nudged me to reflect on the fortunate reality of our world, where respecting others' beliefs and creating a safe space for all is increasingly prevalent. As a school, we firmly believe that theatre offers a one stop solution for developing the 21st-century skills prescribed by P21 (An organisation focused on integrating contemporary competencies into education). Witnessing our students demonstrate 21st century skills on stage filled me with just one emotion- pride.

Shilpi Gill

Dear Kabirians,

"...main iss duniya ko ek rang-manch samajhta hoon, jahan har insaan ko nibhaane ke liye ek kirdaar mila hai."

(I consider this world a stage, where every individual has a role to play.)

As Antonio, my character, utters these words, I realise that they hold a profound truth. If that's so, I'd love to embody the role of an artist – on paper, on stage and in life. I felt fortunate and privileged to bring Antonio to life in this year's annual theatre production, '**Kagaz Ke Kafil**', which fittingly serves as our theme for this edition as well.

The experience, as described by my fellow ensemble members was nothing short of magical, liberating,

transformative and exquisite.

Yet for me, the word that resonates deepest is 'belonging'.

In this special edition, we invite you to relive the magic of '*Kagaz Ke Kafil*' through:

- Personal experiences of the cast.
- Audience anecdotes
- Exclusive photographs of our grand Shakespeare adaptation. (Pgs. 5-9)

Don't miss our exclusive interview with **Zubin A. Mehta**, acclaimed theatre director, on pg.10 and a brand new segment '**The Debate Den**'-your platform to discuss, debate and connect with others on the issues that matter, on pg.16

Happy Reading!
Gursehaj Singh

From The Editor's Desk





EDUASSIST

CURATING
FUTURES

Students of grades IX-XII explored international education opportunities at the Mini UK University Fair organised by EduAssist. Representatives from five top UK universities (Kings College London, Durham, SOAS, Nottingham and Sheffield) shared programme details and campus experiences, answering students' questions and inspiring their future academic pursuits.

A R T O F T I N K E R I N G

The Tinkering Lab has undergone a stunning transformation, emerging as the **MakrCave**, a cutting-edge space designed to inspire creativity and innovation. This revitalised hub boasts:

- A state-of-the-art 3D printer with laser cutting capabilities
- A high-end computer for graphic design
- Streamlined component storage system

Empowering Student Projects

The MakrCave has already witnessed intense activity, with students working tirelessly on various projects. Recent highlights include:

- **Science Fair** (August 30, 2024-September 1, 2024): Students crafted innovative models and mechanisms, showcasing their scientific prowess.
- **World Robot Olympiad preparations**: Three teams designed and assembled sophisticated robots, leveraging electronics, sensors, coding, and motors.

Meet the Robots:

- **AquaClean**: A robot boat utilising nanobubbles to clean small water bodies
- **RescueBot**: A robot designed to detect humans trapped after earthquakes.
- **FloodClean**: A robot engineered to remove silt and mud from homes post-floods.

The **MakrCave** embodies our school's commitment to fostering **STEM** education, creativity and problem-solving skills. We look forward to seeing more students tap into this incredible resource.



'The best way to predict the future is to invent it.'

- Alan Kay

STUDENT LED INITIATIVES

Project Conscientia

Project Conscientia, a student-led initiative aimed to spread awareness about ADHD and dyslexia. This pioneering project emerged as one of the winners of the YLAC 2023 Social Action Incubator programme, securing funding of Rs.50,000. The team comprising Ekamjot Kaur Bedi, Prishaa Talwar, Aarav Bhatia, Arya Aggarwal, Lineysha Dhiman, and Khushi Narula organised professional-led sessions in the school for parents, teachers and students. These sessions focused on understanding ADHD and dyslexia, identifying symptoms and effective coping mechanisms. Not only this, our young changemakers have made significant strides in raising awareness about the prevalence of these learning disorders, promoting empathy, understanding and advocating for an inclusive and supporting environment in society.



JA Company

Introducing Organic Office, our Junior Achievement Company Program's pioneering venture!

Led by talented students from grades XI and XII, this innovative initiative combines sustainability and style, offering eco-friendly stationery products. Over 18 weeks, our young entrepreneurs will develop essential business skills, foster environmental responsibility and strive for profitability.

Follow Organic Office's journey and support our inspiring young entrepreneurs as they revolutionise the stationery industry with sustainable solutions!



Our school has initiated two collaborative projects — **Project CHINTU(Children's Initiative in Technological Upliftment)** and **DigiSeva** to empower our helping staff with technology. In project **CHINTU**, students collected and upgraded three laptops and tablets, with plans to gather more devices for distribution to deserving members of the school helping staff. **DigiSeva**, an ongoing initiative, focuses on educating the staff in using technology more effectively. Following a survey on their technical skills and phone usage, a significant need for smartphones was identified, prompting a partnership with Project **CHINTU** to provide them with the necessary devices.



AIKYAM

ST KABIR GOES UNTABOO

*Breaking Silence,
Building Confidence*



St Kabir Public School recently organised an insightful session on 'Safe and Happy Teen Years' in collaboration with UNTABOO, a pioneering force in safety and sex education. Under the guidance of CEO and founder Ms. Anju Kish, these engaging sessions aimed to demystify sensitive topics, encouraging open dialogue and awareness among students, parents and educators. Key discussions centered around navigating adolescent curiosity, safeguarding them against explicit content and fostering responsible guidance. By providing a safe and informed platform, this initiative empowered stakeholders to address critical issues, further solidifying St Kabir Public School's commitment to holistic development and progressive education.



KAGAZ KE KAFILE

Dir. Sarthak Narula



"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts." These words by William Shakespeare profoundly encapsulate the theatrical nature of human existence. As we navigate life's twists and turns, we assume multiple roles, each with unique scripts and characters.

St Kabir Public School's recent theatrical production, *Kagaz Ke Kafile* – a Hindi adaptation of Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice', beautifully mirrored this understanding. Directed by Mr. Narula, the play highlighted the dynamic interplay of characters, illustrating life as a series of interconnected roles.



The electric atmosphere and packed auditorium testified to the excitement and anticipation built over weeks. The audience was spellbound by the students' captivating performances, skillfully balancing humour, drama and emotion.

In the grand scheme, *Kagaz Ke Kafile* echoed Shakespeare's vision: every role is vital to creating a cohesive and captivating story. Through this production, students learned not only the art of theatre but also teamwork, discipline and the collective joy of creative expression.

Reminiscences & Reflections

“Through this play, I gained valuable insights into my my own thoughts ,emotions and behaviour”

-Shaina Sharma, XII C (Maid)

“It was an unforgettable experience that left a huge impact on me as a person.”

-Pavitjot Singh, XI-A (Lancelot Gobo)

“The journey felt like coming back to life, by living a different life.”

-Tavisha Kaul, XII-C (Jessica)

“Best experience of my lifetime so far.”

-Amrit Shlok, XI-B (Prince of Morocco)

“It is one of those memories that would bring an instant smile to your face, even 60 years from now”

-Gursehaj Singh, XII C (Antonio)

“The magic of theatre has forever touched my soul.”

-Viraaj Arora, XII C (Gobo’s Father)

“Being a part of this production really helped me see myself through a different perspective.”

-Kangna Kaur , XII C (Jessica)

“A magnificent and incredible experience, wherein I got to learn so much.”

-Aishwarya Mahajan, XI-A(Portia)

“Helped me come to terms with who I am and facilitated my personal growth in so many ways.”

-Navya , XI C (Tubal)



Did You Know?

Shakespeare couldn't spell!

Although William was taught Latin at his local school, spelling was not a part of lessons and everyone spelled words how they wanted.

LIGHTS, CAMERA DIRECTOR!



Dir. Sarthak Narula

Creating '*Kaagaz ke Kaafile*' provided us with an opportunity to delve into the themes of justice, mercy, and the complexities of human relationships. Shakespeare's classic 'The Merchant of Venice', echoes timeless questions about prejudice, mercy and the idea of justice and vengeance.

The original text, with its intricate interplay challenged us at every step as we tried hard to adapt it and contextualise it to contemporary space and time; wherein drawing meaning , relationship and responding to the times we live in would have been more meaningful, but the characters and motives are bound in an era as situations derive from those particular times. The narrative helped us go deeper into what it means to be an outsider, how a community is marked, labelled and turned into a minority and how that serves the society.



As an organiser, I initially felt apprehensive about planning a summer play with a new director and a cast of fresh faces. However, the director endorsed my vision of providing novice performers a platform to foster and refine their craft before they graduated.

The success of the production was largely thanks to our Coordinator and the dedicated Senior Secondary School Educators who took on extra responsibilities during the break. We encountered several challenges - actors leaving and others stepping in to juggle multiple roles - but in the end, everything came together beautifully, culminating into a mesmerising performance.

A Summer of New Beginnings

**-Sneha Wadhwa
(Co-scholastic Advisor)**

CURTAIN CALL CONVERSATIONS



It's rare to witness a piece of work that, while delving into darker and grittier domains of society, manages to preserve its sense of whimsy, without it seeming like the two themes are at conflict. 'Kagaz ke Kafile' pulled off exactly that, in a way that turned the words of a 17th Century Elizabethan work, into a play for a 21st century audience, rather seamlessly.

-Paarth (Student, Chitkara University)

The play was, without a doubt, a formative experience for my daughter (who enacted the role of Portia) and kept her occupied in the best possible manner throughout her summer vacation. The casting was done with great thought which was quite visible in the final show and the amount of effort the students and management put into the production was astounding . A heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sarthak Narula for giving her this golden opportunity!

-Mandeep Singh (Parent, Rabaani, XI B)





When I first heard about 'Kagaz ke Kafilay' I was doubtful of the fact that a Shakespeare work was going to be staged in Hindi and Urdu, but the production proved my apprehensions wrong as the adaptation was done rather beautifully and naturally. Everything from the stage design to the costumes to the acting of the cast was top notch.

-Johret Sodhi (Student, Carmel Convent)



Being a theatre enthusiast, this was the best possible way I could've spent my evening! It is wonderful to see these young actors display such intense emotions with great ease and it is delightful to be part of a community that promotes learning outside of the academic sphere and that too brilliantly.

**-Smriti Gautama
(Parent, Aaksha Gautama, XII C)**



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Nidhi Sharma

Career Profile

We proudly recognise Dr. Nidhi Sharma, a distinguished alumna of St. Kabir Public School (2003), for her outstanding achievements. Dr. Nidhi Sharma (Ph.D. Law, PU, 2023; LL.M, Gold Medalist ; LL.B; BA Hons; UGC NET) is a renowned academic and legal expert. As Assistant Professor at UITS, PU, she has delivered lectures at prestigious institutions and authored publications, including 'Law Notes on Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita' and 'Criminal Procedure Code'. Her popular Instagram platform 'Resolute Readings', showcases book reviews, historical insights and content on legal awareness. Additionally, Dr. Sharma inspires students through her motivational lectures at Career Launcher, Chandigarh.

Memories of My Alma Mater

As an average student turned educator, I attribute my traits of discipline, punctuality and resilience to St Kabir Public School. Our beloved Late J.P. Singh Sir (Principal Sir) instilled in me the value of never giving up. Teachers like Ma'am Monika Tandon, who reposed faith in me during struggling times, left an indelible mark. Her kindness and academic excellence inspired me to treat students with respect and love, regardless of scores.

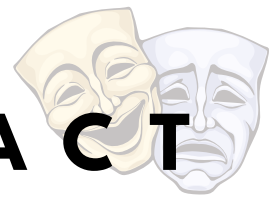
Message for the Students

Focus on knowledge and growth, not views or followers. Hard work has no shortcuts; every effort counts. Amidst anxiety, trust God's plan and relax. Remember, you're more than your online presence. Be kind, as everyone faces unseen battles. Define yourself by character and compassion, not scores or likes. Work hard, stay humble and spread love.

Houses	Sports	Co-Scholastic
Orchid	38	47
Violet	36	41
Daffodil	35	36
Tulip	31	38

Luminary
Scoreboard

VOYAGE OF IMPACT



Zubin A. Mehta

How do you believe your role as a director affects the lives of your students?

I prefer 'teacher' over 'director' since my process begins with workshops that emphasise on holistic learning, extending beyond script work. So, my impact as a teacher is allowing them to focus on the bottled up emotions, forgiving themselves, diving deep into those corners of their minds and hearts that they haven't explored till now and understanding themselves and their idiosyncrasies.



My Fair Lady

What motivates you to go on working with children, given that you began doing so almost 20 years ago?

I find joy in helping children discover themselves. Working with them allows me to escape reality and connect with their purity and honesty. Sometimes, I think I'm quite a misfit in this world. However, spending time with children allows me to see the world through their eyes and appreciate its beauty. Honestly, it provides an escape from reality and being in a space where everything is genuine, honest and pure.



Do Afsane

In your opinion, what distinguishes St Kabir students from those at other schools?

You might expect me to say that children are the same everywhere, but I've found a unique charm here in St Kabir Public School. The students here are refreshingly positive, sincere and more receptive. I have cherished working with Gursehaj, Abhimanyu, Suveera and Arunima. Their grounded nature, respect and enthusiasm makes teaching a joy



Fiddler on the Roof

What's your most cherished St Kabir production and most challenging experience to date?

I would have to say I enjoyed working the most on 'Fiddler on the Roof' in 2018. We had a great team that year, with brilliant actors and talented singers. That is also one of the last musicals I directed. I believe 'Phantom of the Opera' too, with its grand production value and fantastical elements, was quite amazing. Since it was very ambitious, it kept me apprehensive till the last moment.

What advice would you give to the present generation?

Nowadays, we are consuming micro-news, micro-videos, micro stories and thousands of photographs in a week. So, there is a lot in everyone's head. Therefore, it's imperative to engage in activities that slow down your thoughts, such as yoga, music or even theatre. Unwind and find calm amidst the noise.

"I believe plays and theatre have a spiritual energy."

Smartphones and Social Media: The Blurred Lines between Appearance and Reality

Growing up in a world of smartphones, social media and instant connectivity, our children, the 'digital natives', seamlessly integrate technology into their interactions. However, this has led to a distorted view of reality, where social media appearances often masquerade as truth.

A study published in the Journal of Education and Practice (2021) highlights that Indian students spend a significant amount of time on online platforms, with average daily usage ranging from 2 to 4 hours. This excessive social media use can lead to unrealistic comparisons, stress, anxiety and depression. As teenagers become increasingly enthralled by the lives of social media influencers, they risk neglecting their immediate surroundings and relationships.

Their perception of reality becomes skewed, prioritising the curated highlight reels over authentic experiences. This can have far-reaching consequences, affecting their academic performance, social skills and mental health.

Parents and schools play a vital role in steering children towards a healthier relationship with the virtual world. Through open dialogue, education and setting boundaries, we can help them develop a more realistic understanding of the world around them. Let's encourage our children to engage in activities that foster creativity, empathy and self awareness. Let's help them develop a growth mindset, focusing on progress rather than perfection. By working together, we can ensure that our children navigate the digital world with confidence, critical thinking and a deep understanding of what's real and what's not.

Remember, real life happens offline, encourage children to live it well.

Dr. Sabina Duggal.

Counsellor's Corner



From the Storyteller's Hearth



Dear Reader,

I first encountered *The Merchant of Venice* in ninth grade, and at that young age, it resonated primarily as a tale of friendship and love.

However, as I became older (and wiser!) and delved deeper into Shakespeare's works, I could see his profound focus on individual decision-making and its psychological underpinnings. Shakespeare's work challenges our beliefs and biases, exploring a wide range of moral and ethical dilemmas. Its enduring impact lies in its ability to provoke thought and discussion long after the curtain falls. Shakespeare's characters often find themselves in dire straits; they are forced to make difficult choices that test the audience's moral compass. *The Merchant of Venice* defies simple labels, presenting conflicting ethical perspectives. We can keep adding several 'what ifs' and 'but thens' to the narrative only

to find ourselves in a moral quandary by the end of it. To a discerning audience, this deliberate ambiguity compels them to repeatedly examine and question long-held assumptions.

Shakespeare's masterful storytelling in *The Merchant of Venice* explores the complexities of human morality and decision-making. Its timeless popularity testifies to its ability to provoke thought and challenge our understanding of right and wrong.

I encourage you dear reader, to delve into as many Shakespeare's works as you can, as every story offers several layers of perspectives that you can draw from and build yourself a robust moral and ethical framework.

**Warmly,
Deeptha**

INKSCAPES



Adheesh Aryan (VIII C)

Digitalisation

In a world of wires and light,
Where data flows both day and night,
Digital realms in circuits glow,
Transforming how we live and grow.
Once on paper, now in code,
Information takes a digital mode,
Bits and bytes dance in the air, Connecting us
with utmost care.

From emails sent across the globe, To online
shopping, a vibrant strobe, Digital touches
every part of our day, Guiding us along life's
modern way.

Books and libraries fit in our hand,
Knowledge and stories at our command,
Digital pages turn with a swipe, Bringing
learning to our every type.

But as we embrace this digital trend, Let's not
forget the human blend,

For in screens and codes, we find our place,
But love and connection still need grace.

So, let us balance the old and new, In this
world of pixels and hues, Digital wonders,
simple and grand, Hand in hand with the
human hand.

-Raunav Nanda (VIII-B)

The Arrow

When I can embrace pain
easier than I can
embrace joy;

and live in the memories
of a fallen boy;

A boy who had everything he wanted
But never knew,

How dipped in loneliness, an arrow drew,
and pierced his little heart.

An arrow made with hurt,
And a tip made with words,

Flies like a flock of birds,
An arrow I hit you with first.

So its only reasonable that you revert.

Nothing feels real except you and I slowly
crumble.

-Sabir Singh (IX-B)

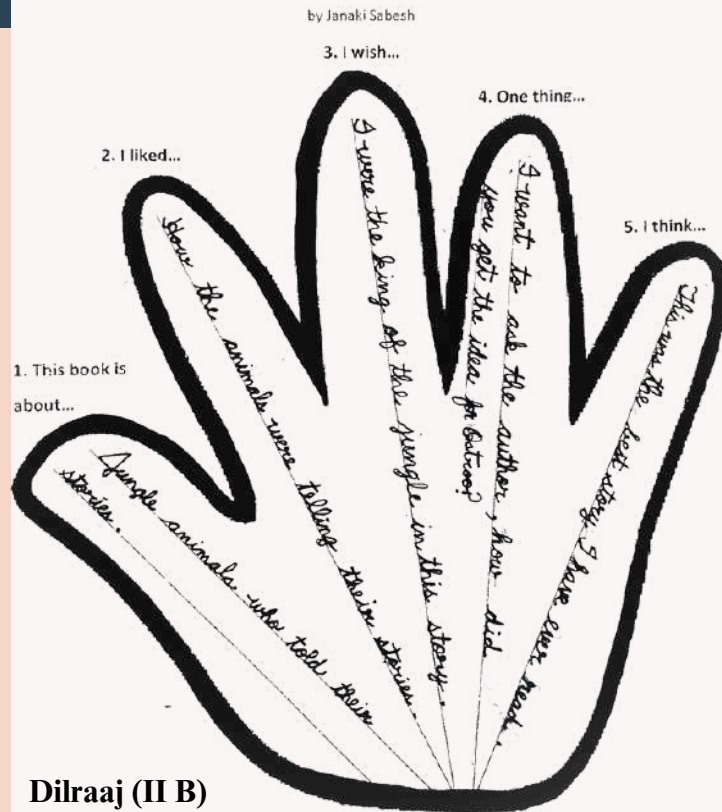
BOOKWORM'S PARADISE

"One of Us is Lying"

"Karen M. McManus's 'One of Us Is Lying' is an engaging thriller novel set in Bayview High, a school where even the most unsuspecting have things to hide. Five students walk into detention, but only four come out alive. Simon Kelleher, the victim, is famous for his gossip app which exposed everyone's secrets. The remaining four students become prime suspects. The narrative unfolds from the perspective of each of the suspects, allowing readers to delve into their thoughts. The mystery is filled with twists and turns that keep the reader engaged. **One of Us is Lying** is a mind bendingly mysterious read that will appeal to fans of the genre."

-Baheera Mehta (IX-B)

"The Jungle Storytelling Festival"



"The Ghost of the Mountains"

"This book tells the story of the Ghosts of the Mountains which are snow leopards. In this exciting and adventurous book, we meet a young boy named Rigzin. The main characters in this book are Rigzin, Jigmet and Tashi. My favourite character is Rigzin because he is brave and strong. I really connected with this character because he cares about wildlife and animals."

-Ishan Sood (IV-A)

"Set in the Forest of Arden, **As You Like It**, is an intriguing play written by the well-known author and playwright **William Shakespeare**. It is a delightful story about Rosalind, the daughter of the exiled Duke Senior whose throne had been taken away forcibly by his brother Duke Frederick. Disguised as a man named Ganymede, she sets off with her cousin Celia to find her father and a mystery man named Orlando whom she had once met. The themes of love and forgiveness make this story a beautiful masterpiece. The play, with its blend of humour and wit, is a must-read for literature and theatre lovers."

-Hunnar Kaur (VIII-B)

"As You Like It"

Quarter's Quintessence

Notable events of the quarter

Pulling Together: A Showcase of Teamwork and Strength

"The Tug of War was incredibly entertaining and everyone's support for one another truly encouraged us to show off our sportsmanship."

-Aishwarya Mahajan (XI-A)

"I always look forward to this event as it strengthens teamwork and communication and provides an exhilarating experience."

-Aaradhya Bhandari (VII-C)



PANTOMATHICS

An electrifying battle of wits and knowledge

2nd August 2024 : St Kabir Public School hosted the **5th edition** of its signature event - **Pantomathics** - An Inter-School General Knowledge Quiz in collaboration with Nexus Consulting, Bangalore.

PTSM: DISPLAYS OF DISTINCTION

PTSM at St. Kabir Public School showcased students' talent, from Science and Robotics to Art and Entrepreneurship, highlighting achievements and sustainability initiatives.

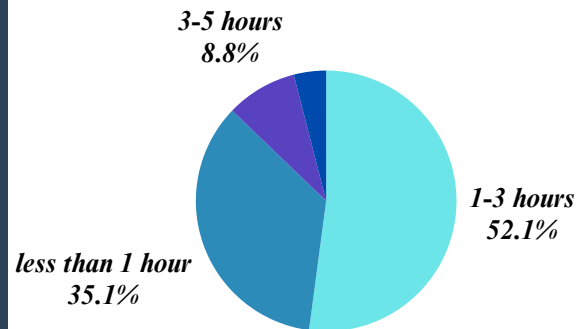


OPINIO QUEST

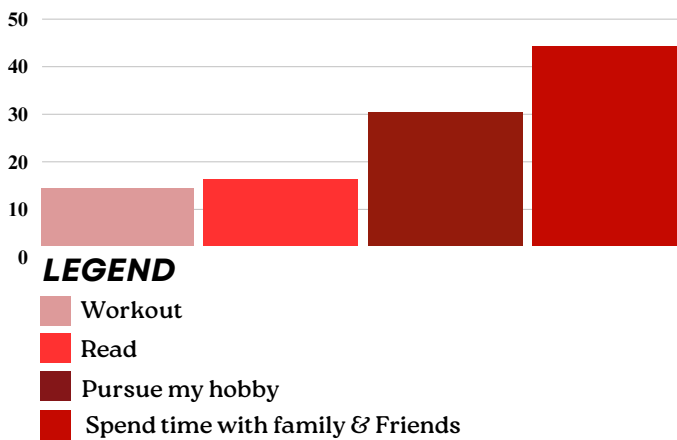
A comprehensive survey was conducted among students of classes V to XII to gather insights into their personal perception and experiences regarding **Social Media and its Usage**.

- Social media *distractions are common*, with many students acknowledging that it *hinders their focus*, though the *intensity of distraction varies*.
- Students often *felt frustrated or annoyed* by parental restrictions on social media, though some also *reported feeling a sense of relief and gratitude for the break*.
- Many *questioned the authenticity of their social media connections*, with responses ranging from *scepticism to belief in its genuineness*.

How much time do you spend on social media everyday?



What do you do to keep your social media usage under control?

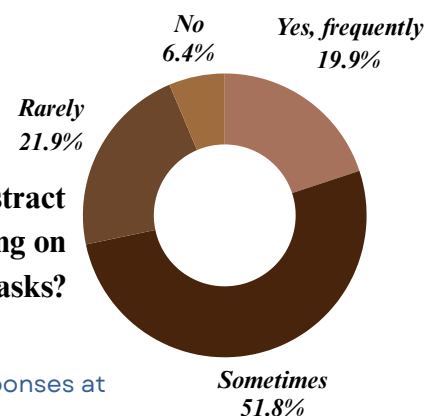


- Students linked *social media use to sleep issues*, many did not see it as a cause of sleep deprivation.
- Some *students admitted* to idolising *social media influencers*, particularly *athletes*, while others felt less influenced by online personalities.
- Many students expressed the *need for parental guidance* or *self-regulation* to maintain a *healthy balance* in social media use.

THE DEBATE DEN

Does the Pune Porsche case justify re-evaluating the age criteria for driving licenses, to prioritise road safety and responsible driving practices?

Does social media distract you from focusing on important tasks?



Share your views and responses at newsletter@stkabir.co.in



Janisha Arora (IX-B)

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